In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 1-20 and add new claims 21-59 as follows.

21. A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding human caspase 7 (SEQ ID NO:3), wherein the compound targets the 5' untranslated region, 5' cap region, intron:exon junction, or translation termination codon region and inhibits the expression of human caspase 7.

22. The compound of claim 21 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

23. The compound of claim 22 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

24. The compound of claim 23 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

25. The compound of claim 22 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

26. The compound of claim 25 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

27. The compound of claim 22 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

28. The compound of claim 27 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

29. The compound of claim 22 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

30. The compound of claim 21 wherein the compound inhibits human caspase 7 expression by at least 30%.

31. A composition comprising the compound of claim 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

32. The composition of claim 31 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

33. A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length which targets at least an 8-nucleobase portion of an active site on a nucleic acid molecule encoding caspase 7 (SEQ ID NO:3).

34. A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding human caspase 7 (SEQ ID NO:3), wherein the compound targets a region comprising nucleobases 48-68, 84-104, 94-114, 104-124, 111-131, 138-158, 145-165, 168-188, 230-250, 332-352, 338-358, 344-364, 354-374, 371-391, 425-445, 496-516, 567-587, 577-597, 713-733, 716-736, 745-765, 751-771, 778-798, 792-812, 807-817, 911-931, 930-950, 971-991, 977-117, 1075-1095, 1116-1136, 1229-1249, 1237-1257, 1265-1285, 1268-1288, 1363-1383, 1370-1390, 1372-1392, 1407-1427, 1452-1472, 1504-1524, 1551-1571, 1615-1635, 1663-1683, 1721-1741, 1747-1767, 1781-1801, 1783-1803, 1803-1823, 1861-1881, 1899-1919, 1939-1959, 1948-1968, 2006-2026, 2069-2089, 2077-2097, 2109-2129, or 2290-2310, and inhibits the expression of human caspase 7.

35. The compound of claim 34 which is an antisense oligonucleotide.

36. The compound of claim 35 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

37. The compound of claim 36 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

38. The compound of claim 35 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

39. The compound of claim 38 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

40. The compound of claim 35 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

41. The compound of claim 40 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

42. The compound of claim 35 wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

43. The compound of claim 34 wherein the compound inhibits human caspase 7 expression by at least 30%.

44. A composition comprising the compound of claim 34 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

45. The composition of claim 44 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

46. A method of inhibiting the expression of caspase 7 in cells or tissues comprising contacting the cells or tissues with the compound of claim 21 so that expression of caspase 7 is inhibited.

47. A method of inhibiting the expression of caspase 7 in cells or tissues comprising contacting the cells or tissues with the compound of claim 34 so that expression of caspase 7 is inhibited.

48. A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with caspase 7 comprising administering to the animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 21 so that expression of caspase 7 is inhibited.

49. The method of claim 48 wherein the disease or condition is an inflammatory condition.

50. The method of claim 48 wherein the disease or condition is a hyperproliferative disorder.

51. The method of claim 50 wherein the hyperproliferative disorder is cancer.

52. The method of claim 48 wherein the disease or condition is a bone metabolism or cholesterol disorder.

53. The method of claim 48 wherein the inhibition is at least 30%.

54. A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with caspase 7 comprising administering to the animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 34 so that expression of caspase 7 is inhibited.

55. The method of claim 54 wherein the disease or condition is an inflammatory condition.

56. The method of claim 54 wherein the disease or condition is a hyperproliferative disorder.

57. The method of claim 56 wherein the hyperproliferative disorder is cancer.

58. The method of claim 54 wherein the disease or condition is a bone metabolism or cholesterol disorder.

59. The method of claim 57 wherein the inhibition is at least 30%.